

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8260

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJ: VISIT TO VENEZUELA BY WILLY BRANDT

REF: USUN 1007

SUMMARY: AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, EX-FRG CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT VISITED VENEZUELA ON MARCH 30 - APRIL 2. HIS VISIT ENGENDERED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MEANS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE FRG, BUT APPEARED TO BE PRINCIPALLY A GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT PEREZ. END SUMMARY

1. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO MEXICO, VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ INVITED WILLY BRANDT, WHO WAS IN MEXICO AT THE SAME TIME, TO VISIT CARACAS. BRANDT ACCEPTED THIS LAST-MINUTE INVITATION AND MADE A SPONTANEOUS VISIT TO CARACAS ON MARCH 30 - APRIL 2 IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, HE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY BELLINGHAUSEN, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION; KLAUS LINDBERG, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL RESEARCH; H. BILLISBER, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF DEVELOP-

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MENT; AND J. ESSA, SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATE OF THAT INSTITUTE.

2. DURING HIS VISIT, BRANDT HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN CABINET, VISITED THE VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CTV), AND ADDRESSED A JOINT SESSION OF THE VENEZUELAN NATIONAL CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT, BRANDT ALSO MET WITH A GROUP OF EXILES, LED BY CHILEAN SENATOR ANSELMO SULE, OF THE CHILEAN RADICAL PARTY.

3. BRANDT TOLD THE PRESS THAT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ THEY CONCENTRATED ON MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS AND THE PROSPECTIVE MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. BRANDT SAID THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ'S POLICIES IN DEFENSE OF THE RAW MATERIALS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE CORRECT, AND THAT THESE POLICIES PLAY A DECISIVE AND IMPORTANT ROLE NOT ONLY IN LATIN AMERICA BUT ALSO IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE. HE DENIED HE WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND SAID HE WAS CURRENTLY FULLY OCCUPIED WITH HIS PARTY DUTIES IN GERMANY.

4. BRANDT INDICATED THAT VENEZUELA AND THE FRG MIGHT DEVELOP NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM. DURING HIS VISIT THERE WAS A WORKING LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF BRANDT'S DELEGATION AND A GROUP OF VENEZUELAN MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN PETROCHEMICALS AND STEEL. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THIS MEETING LED TO A PROPOSAL, WHICH MAY BE RATIFIED OFFICIALLY IN BONN SOON, TO ESTABLISH A VENEZUELAN-FRG ECONOMIC COORDINATION COMMITTEE.

5. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS, BRANDT ECHOED HIS COMMENTS IN NEW YORK ABOUT "ECONOMIC DETENTE" (REFTEL) AND CALLED FOR A CLOSER INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM THE CONCEPTS OF DEPENDENCY INTO COOPERATION AND BROTHERHOOD. HE CALLED FOR "A NEW DIALOGUE" BETWEEN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA. IN A POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ'S PROPOSALS FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, BRANDT SAID THAT THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION HAD REQUIRED SACRIFICES, BUT HAD ALSO DEMONSTRATED THAT REGIONAL SOLIDARITY IS FAVORABLE FOR DEVELOPING WORLD SOLIDARITY. ALTHOUGH HE DID QUOTE FROM HIS RECENT ADDRESS TO THE UN, BRANDT DID NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC DETENTE (REFTEL).

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6. COMMENT: BASED ON COMMENTS BY SEVERAL SOURCES, IT APPEARS TO US THAT PEREZ'S INVITATION TO BRANDT WAS, INDEED, A LAST-MINUTE MOVE. PEREZ MAY HAVE WISHED TO AVOID BEING UPSTAGED BY ECHEVERRIA, AND MAY HAVE DESIRED BRANDT'S ENDORSEMENT OF HIS POLICIES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE. BRANDT SEEMS TO HAVE HAD LESS TO GAIN FROM HIS VISIT. (SOME MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN COMMUNITY COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT THEY THOUGHT BRANDT COULD HAVE

BETTER USED HIS TIME BY STAYING IN GERMANY.) PEREZ'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS SAW THE BRANDT VISIT AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF GRANDIOSE INTERNATIONAL MOVES BY PEREZ WITHOUT ADEQUATE SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATION OR FOLLOW-THROUGH. OPPOSITION COPEI DEPUTY JOSE RODRIGUEZ ITURBE, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN POLICY, SAID TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE AND OTHERS WERE DISMAYED OVER THE EMPTINESS OF BRANDT'S VISIT AND COMPARED IT TO VENEZUELA'S ILL-CONSIDERED CONVOCATION LAST NOVEMBER OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL OAS MEETING IN QUITO.

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